Social Security to aged people

2836. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR. Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lack of adequate legislation to provide the aged people with social security;

(b) whether Government are considering certain suggestions that families with senior citizens be given some financial concessions and facilities and benefits to sons and daughters of the aged to take care of them; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposals under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Government is of the view that providing legislation is not the most effective way for providing social security to aged people.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

Promotion of Poor Girls' Education

2837. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPPOWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes being formulated for promotion of poor girls' education in the country during the last 3 years State-wise;

(b) the total allocation made by Government for the purpose during the current year; and

(c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (formerly known as Ministry of Welfare) had introduced a Central Sector Scheme of Special Educational Development Programme for Scheduled Castes girls belonging to low literacy levels from 1996-97. Under the scheme, a package of inputs are provided through residential schools to Scheduled Castes girls in areas of very low literacy where traditions and environment are not conducive to their learning. The scheme is implemented through Zilla Parislads of the concerned Districts.

During the year 1996-97, Rs. 34 lakhs was released to set up 20 residential schools in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. During 1997-98, an amount of Rs. 11.75 lakhs was released for the scheme for the year 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 300 lakhs has been provided in the Budget Estimates.

Information regarding other schemes is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exclusive courts for atrocities on SCs/STs in Andhra Pradesh

2838. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government for sanction of Rs. 647.95 lakhs for setting up of exclusive courts to deal with cases of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the action taken on the request; and

(c) when would the additional financial assistance sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh had worked out tentative estimates of likely additional financial requirement of Rs. 647.95 lakhs for